

REMARKS

The present application was filed on January 23, 2004 with claims 1 through 24. Claims 1 through 24 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 are proposed to be amended. Claim 25 is proposed to be added. Claims 4, 10, 16 and 22 are proposed to be cancelled herein, without prejudice.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rogenmoser et al. (United States Number 6,430,099).

Request for Updated Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

As indicated above, Rogenmoser et al. (United States Number 6,430,099) was included in the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Rogenmoser et al., however, was not listed on the Notice of References Cited (PTO-892). Applicants respectfully request an updated Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) that includes Rogenmoser et al.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 13 and 19

Independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Rogenmoser et al. With regard to claims 1 and 13, the Examiner asserts that in Rogenmoser et al., the bit line precharge circuit 20 is configured to precharge one of the sets of the bit line conductors corresponding to one of the (complete) partitions of the ROM Array 12, in response to the partition being selected.

The present invention, on the other hand, provides additional granularity for precharging a subset of selected columns within each sub-array. See, e.g., FIG. 7 and corresponding discussion. In one exemplary embodiment, the present invention allows 1 of 8 columns in a sub-array to be precharged. Rogenmoser et al. activate or precharge only an entire partition (i.e., a sub-array).

Thus, Rogenmoser et al. does not disclose or suggest precharging only a portion of the columns in a sub-array during a given read cycle, as variously required by each independent claim, as amended.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19.

It is noted that the leakage problem of the present invention was not an issue in 2001 at the time Rogenmoser et al. was filed. Thus, Rogenmoser et al. cannot be said to disclose or suggest a method for reducing leakage current.

New Claim

New claim 25 has been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim various features of the invention, consistent with the scope of the originally filed specification, in order to give applicant the protection to which he is entitled. No new matter is introduced. See, e.g., page 4, lines 14-18. Claim 25 is dependent on independent claim 1 and is therefore patentably distinguished over Rogenmoser because of its dependency from independent claim 1 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements this claim adds in combination to its base claim.

Allowance of claim 25 is believed to be warranted.

Dependent Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18, 20-21 and 23-24

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18, 20-21 and 23-24 are dependent on independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Rogenmoser et al. because of their dependency from independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.


All of the pending claims following entry of the amendments, i.e., claims 1-25, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Date: November 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


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